

12-1-1963

Richard M. Cannon to Sir, 1 December 1963

Richard M. Cannon

Follow this and additional works at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jws_corr

Recommended Citation

Cannon, Richard M., "Richard M. Cannon to Sir, 1 December 1963" (1963). *Correspondence*. 966.
https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jws_corr/966

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the James W. Silver Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Correspondence by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

COPY

University, Mississd ppi
December 1, 1963

Mr. Champ Terney, Chairman
Student Judicial Council
University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

Dear Sir:

After the occurrences of the past month, which I outline below, your letter of November 26th came as no surprise. The following facts are given for the Council's information.

1. Regarding the disposition of the first charge, it was dismissed "with prejudice" which any law student knows means it did not go to trial and can never be re-instituted.

2. Regarding the the second charge, I cannot fathom its meaning, as it could refer to anything which has occurred during the 65 years of my life prior to whatever time is meant; therefore I have no idea what the reference may mean.

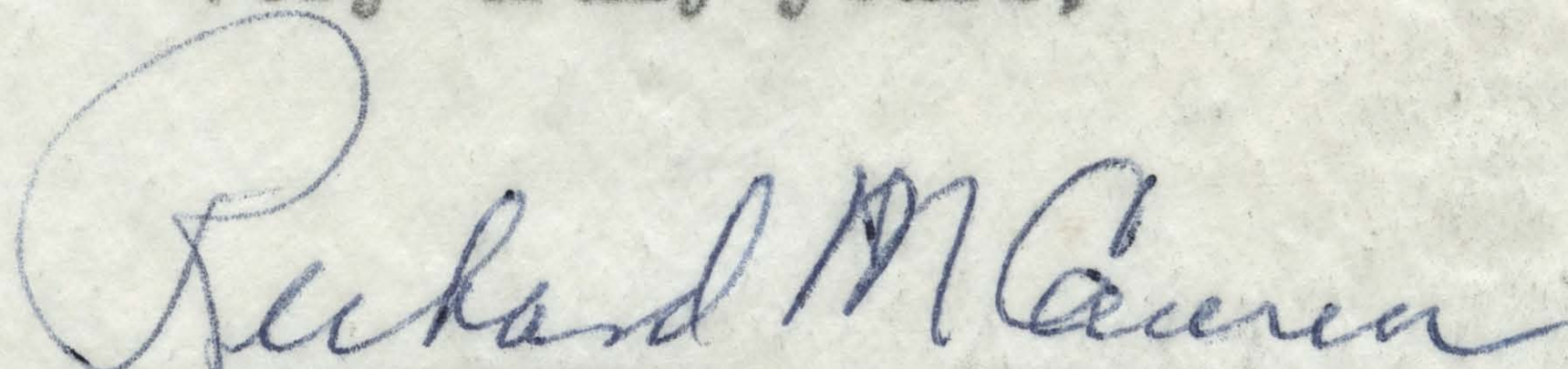
3. For the benefit of the Council, I am giving below the sequence of events from on or about ~~XXXXXXXX~~ October 25th to November 22nd. On the first date or near it I saw Dean Love regarding the parking problems at the University as affecting me. On October 28th a letter in the Mississippian was along the identical lines which I had complained of to Dean Love though I did not and still do not have the slightest idea who wrote it. On November 2nd I wrote a letter to the Chancellor, sending copy to Dean Love, in which I stated that unless some adjustment could be made in regard to parking as it affected me, I would have to withdraw from the University. On November 6th I received a letter from the Chancellor stating he agreed I was correct in my stand and he would take the matter up with Dean Love. On November 9th I received a letter from Dean Love reiterating his previous stand and the same day I again wrote the Chancellor stating I could not remain in the University if the decision stood. On November 14th I wrote a letter to the Mississippian in regard to the demands being made that Dr. Silver be discharged, and though this was not over my signature, I told the editor of the paper who I was. On November 16th I was contacted by a representative of a national magazine, asking that I submit one or more articles regarding the alleged "closed society" as it affects the University. I declined, but was again contacted on November 18th, making the same refusal. On November 20th I was handed a charge by Sheriff Ford which purported to date back to October, 1958. Accompanying him were two men; his assistant and the campus chief, complete with gun, etc. It seemed rather odd that three men were necessary, and it seemed even more odd that I was identified as a "writer" or "letter writer" at the time. I attended the University in 1957 and had not returned until 1963; the charge supposedly dated from 1958 and the alleged "forgery" is dated also in 1958. After some thought I decided I would be rather foolish to remain in the University under the circumstances, and I therefore submitted to Dean Lewis, as Dean of the Liberal Arts College, a formal withdrawal, and I left the University at that time, *November 22nd*.

4. In 1957 I was importuned many times by a Mr. Tucker to join the Citizens Council. After doing a little checking I said frankly that I could see little difference between the Council and the Klan except the wearing of nightshirts by the latter, both being extra legal organizations which have brought disrepute on the Southern states, and I still have that opinion. However, as I stated in one of my letters to the Chancellor, I am beyond the age for crusading, and after the exhibition on November 20th,

when I was subjected to a species of legal extortion, I would be an utter fool to risk coming within the jurisdiction of that type of authority. I was at the University the summer of 1957--not '58--and there was no compulsion for me to return this year. Mr. Tucker, who made the complaint, stated he knew for some weeks that I was here. Why the delay, if he had been so injured? If there is concern for the good name of the University, why the parade of three large men into a dormitory room in the manner which seemed to be under the direction of the campus chief?

I appreciate your writing me, and the reason for this answer is that I wish, not to make a defense, for I make none, but to have the Student Judicial Council know the very odd sequence of events. I still do not agree with Dr. Silver in all the details, but it makes one wonder if perhaps there are still attempts to make it a 'closed society'. The pertinent facts are available there, including the record of the unbelievable "court" where I was informed that Mr. Tucker insisted that I be locked up unless I paid him money. I paid the money and he got it (I presume), at least I have a receipt for it. I would be, as I have indicated above, an utter fool to risk any further contact with such "law" and therefore I decline the suggestion that I appear on December 5th. In addition, I have formally withdrawn from the University and so am not under the jurisdiction of the Council. I hope it is not similar to certain political organizations and parties which refuse to recognize a withdrawal.

Very truly yours,



RICHARD M. CANNON
Box 525, University, Mississippi.
(Mail will be forwarded, as I am
sure the Post Office is under Federal
control).